CHAPTER 6.0
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY CEQA

6.1 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.2(d)) require a discussion of growth-inducing impacts. A project may be considered growth inducing when it:

- fosters economic growth, population growth, or construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment in excess of established projections;
- removes obstacles to population growth or additional housing;
- burdens existing community services facilities beyond current/projected capacities; and/or
- encourages or facilitates other growth-inducing activities that could significantly affect the environment (i.e., secondary effects).

Growth is generally dependent on the availability of existing utilities and public services in an area. The provision of new public utilities and services in an undeveloped area can induce growth in that area. Such growth may or may not be anticipated in local land use planning documents. If a project stimulates development of unanticipated urban uses, it would have a growth-inducing effect. Growth inducement can also occur if a proposed project makes it more feasible to increase the density of development in the surrounding areas in excess of established projections. Growth may be considered beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment, depending on its actual impacts to the environmental resources present (i.e., secondary growth effects).

The causes of growth typically involve a complex and varied relationship among several factors, including economic setting, employment opportunities, natural population increase, public policies, and local environment. All of these can influence the rate and extent of growth.

6.1.1 Program Level Impact Analysis

The City has proposed updating the existing 1994 MDSQMP because substantial changes in land use and development patterns, coupled with the inability of some existing drainage facilities to provide 100-year flood protection, required a reevaluation of citywide drainage needs. The DMP

Update proposes drainage infrastructure and improvements required to accommodate storm flows resulting from future planned development within Carlsbad. Implementation of the DMP Update would not result in significant environmental impacts as a result of potential growth inducement because the proposed DMP Update would not extend public services or access into any areas where they previously were not available or approved. Facility sizes and capacity were determined assuming maximum buildout of the city, as guided by the General Plan and Growth Management Plan. It is anticipated that development will occur consistent with the existing General Plan, Growth Management Plan, current zoning designations, and other applicable land planning regulations. The General Plan Land Use Element and Growth Management Plan include the performance standard that requires drainage facilities to be provided concurrent with development (City of Carlsbad 1994).

Project components AFA and AFB are located in Local Facility Management Zone 25, a zone in which a facilities plan has yet to be proposed or approved. A facilities plan must be approved before any development proposals may be approved.

Growth inducement is generally focused on (1) developing an undeveloped parcel and the potential extension and demand for services, and (2) increasing employment and indirect demand for housing as a result of employment. Existing growth management policies for Carlsbad address the provision of adequate services prior to allowing development to occur. The facilities proposed in the DMP Update are required to provide adequate drainage, flood protection, and storm water quality control prior to any new development in the city. Implementation of the DMP Update would not alter existing zoning or land use designations and would therefore not allow for the development of land currently not planned for development to occur. One of the goals of the DMP Update is to provide adequate drainage to accommodate 100-year storm flows in developed areas that are currently subject to flooding due to deficient facility capacities. Although the DMP Update would remove from the 100-year floodplain existing developed areas currently subject to flooding during 100-year storm events, the City does not anticipate existing land use designations in these areas to be changed as a result of implementation of the DMP Update. The proposed DMP Update components would not generate new jobs and therefore would not increase employment opportunities in the city. For these reasons, implementation of the DMP Update would not result in growth that is beyond that currently anticipated by the City or affected service providers.

6.1.2 Project Level Impact Analysis

The proposed drainage improvements in Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks (components B and BN) would involve dredging and channel improvements. The projects would reduce flooding risk in the Rancho Carlsbad residential community by removing as many of the 278 lots as feasible to outside of the existing 100-year flood zone boundary. The proposed dredging and improvements would not involve any development or the creation of additional housing. Although the implementation of project components would reduce the 100-year flood hazard areas along Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks, this would not promote development in the vicinity, which is currently built out to the project boundary within the Rancho Carlsbad residential community. The improvements to Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks will restore 100-year flood capacity in the creeks and the floodplain for Rancho Carlsbad to the original design from 1969. The proposed improvements to Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks are consistent with the objective of the DMP Update to provide flood protection to existing development in the city. The land adjacent to the proposed DMP Update area is either currently developed, planned for future development within the General Plan Land Use Element (independent of the proposed project), or designated as open space by the City's HMP. The City does not anticipate changing any land use designations as a result of implementation of the projects in Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks. Implementation of the project level DMP Update components would not result in the development of currently undeveloped land or the generation of new employment opportunities. Therefore, the project level DMP Update components would not be considered growth inducing, either directly or indirectly.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Section 21100(b)(2)(B) of the CEQA Statutes and Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze the extent to which a proposed project's primary and secondary effects would affect the environment and commit nonrenewable resources to uses that future generations would not be able to reverse. "Significant irreversible environmental changes" include the use of nonrenewable natural resources during the initial and continued phases of the project, should this use result in the unavailability of these resources in the future. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts generally commit future generations to similar uses. Irretrievable commitments of these resources are required to be evaluated in an EIR to ensure that such consumption is justified (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c)).

Approval of the DMP Update would cause irreversible environmental changes consisting of the following:

Alteration of the human environment as a consequence of the development process. In particular, the DMP Update would result in the alteration of natural drainages, sensitive biological habitats, and wetlands to provide drainage improvements, flood protection, and indirect improvements to storm water quality control. Impacts to these sensitive resources would be reduced to a less than significant level with the mitigation measures included in this EIR.

Use of nonrenewable natural resources for construction, operation and maintenance of project components. The proposed DMP Update would not use nonrenewable fossil fuels, such as diesel, gasoline, or oil for construction equipment at a greater rate than other typical construction projects, increase the overall rate of use of any nonrenewable natural resource, or result in the substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resource.

6.3 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Analysis of environmental impacts caused by the proposed DMP Update has been performed and is contained in Chapter 4.0 (Environmental Analysis). Significant environmental impacts have been identified for the following impacts areas:

- Noise (Program Level)
- Biological Resources (Program and Project Levels)
- Cultural Resources (Program Level)
- Paleontological Resources (Program Level)

Significant impacts for each issue area would be reduced to a less than significant level with the incorporation of design features (Table 3-6) and implementation of the mitigation measures identified in this EIR. The DMP Update would not result in any significant unavoidable environmental impacts.

6.4 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

CEQA Guidelines (Section 15128) require that the environmental document include a brief discussion of the environmental issue areas found not to be significant. This EIR addresses all probable and foreseeable possible impacts of the proposed DMP Update. Based on the analysis in Chapter 4.0, the following environmental issue areas were found to be less than significant:

- Land Use (Program and Project Levels)
- Agricultural Resources (Program and Project Levels)
- Visual Resources (Program and Project Level)
- Transportation/Circulation (Program and Project Levels)
- Air Quality (Program and Project Levels)
- Noise (Project Level)
- Recreation (Program and Project Levels)
- Geology/Soils, including Mineral Resources (Program and Project Level)
- Hydrology/Water Quality (Program and Project Levels)
- Cultural Resources (Project Level)
- Paleontological Resources (Project Level)

Based on the public scoping process for this project (refer to Section 1.3), several environmental issue areas were not considered to be areas of controversy and were not anticipated to result in any impacts from implementation of the DMP Update. These issues are briefly summarized below and are not addressed in the environmental analysis (Chapters 4.0 or 5.0) of this EIR. This discussion is applicable to both program and project level DMP Update components, as well as proposed operation and maintenance activities.

Population and Housing

The DMP Update would extend and improve existing drainage infrastructure within Carlsbad to meet the drainage needs of anticipated development within the city. The proposed DMP Update components would be phased so that drainage infrastructure would be constructed and improved prior to or concurrently with approved development. The construction, operations, and maintenance of DMP Update components would not provide additional housing within the city, result in growth inducement (see Section 6.1.1), or have an effect on the City's projected population and housing needs.

Energy Resources

The construction, operations, and maintenance of project components proposed in the DMP Update would not significantly affect local or regional energy supplies, nor would the projects conflict with adopted energy conservation plans. Some of the proposed DMP Update project components, and operation and maintenance activities would require energy to construct and

maintain. However, construction of DMP Update components would be temporary and maintenance would not require excessive amounts of fuel or energy.

Public Services and Utilities

The DMP Update proposes the construction, operation, and/or maintenance of stormwater drainage facilities within the city. No potentially significant environmental impacts to public utilities beyond those described in Chapter 4.0 (Environmental Analysis) and Chapter 5.0 (Cumulative Impacts) would occur from implementation of the DMP Update. No significant impacts to public services would occur with implementation of the DMP Update. Implementation of the DMP Update would not affect emergency medical, police, or fire protection services, or create a need for additional protection services. In fact, the projects proposed in the DMP Update are intended to improve flood protection in the city. Implementation of required traffic control plans during construction of components would ensure that emergency access remains open at all times on major roadways. The roads impacted by proposed pipeline trenching from some components would be restored to their original condition or better, after construction, as discussed in Section 4.4 (Transportation/Circulation).

The DMP Update would not affect power, natural gas, communication, or water and wastewater systems. The City would coordinate with utility companies and implement standard measures to avoid service interruptions during construction of specific components. Potential relocation of utilities for program level DMP Update components would be identified during project-specific design and engineering. The project level DMP Update components (B and BN) would not involve relocation of utilities and have been engineered to avoid impacts to existing utilities within the project area. To avoid impacts ~~on~~to existing utilities, locations of known utility lines will be marked prior to construction.

For some proposed project components or operation and maintenance activities, use of SDG&E's rights-of-way may be required. In these instances, the City would coordinate with SDG&E to ensure access to utility facilities and service to customers are maintained. It is not anticipated that relocation of any SDG&E facilities would be required for implementation of the various project components. Nonetheless, access and potential relocation issues, as well as grading or encroachment into SDG&E rights-of-way, would be determined during project design for each project component. Access, relocation, grading, or encroachment within an SDG&E easement would be granted by SDG&E through a Joint Use Agreement. In some cases, if SDG&E holds a fee title to the lands under their transmission line, then the City must acquire an

easement from SDG&E to construct a new drainage facility. No special permission is required to conduct maintenance of storm drainage facilities within an SDG&E easement.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

A safe construction plan and a traffic control plan in addition to standard building design requirements would be implemented during the construction of specific DMP Update components to ensure public safety. A spill contingency plan would be in place during project-specific construction, operations, or maintenance to mitigate any accidental hazardous materials impacts. Implementation of the DMP Update would not produce any hazardous materials. Rather, the DMP Update components ~~are intended~~would indirectly result in beneficial improvements to ~~improve~~ storm water quality, thus providing a health benefit to the community.

Phase I reports would be prepared for DMP Update components, as required, during project level environmental review to identify potential risks from hazardous materials.

There are no known current or historic uses at the Agua Hedionda and Calavera creeks project area that may have resulted in a release of hazardous materials and no known potentially contaminated sites exist within the project site (www.geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov and Department of Toxic Substances Control 2007). As disclosed in Section 4.3.4 of this EIR, tested soil at the project site was within acceptable ranges of NOAA sediment quality guidelines and indicative of uncontaminated sediments.

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